

# SS In-Touch – November

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **New Statewide Assessment** – Few new details about Indiana's new State Assessment Program to replace ISTEP+ and the GQE are available as of today. However, you can read a memo from the IDOE's Division of Assessment summarizing the information that we know at [www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling](http://www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling) under Hot Topics.
- **School Counselor Regional Workshops** - Thanks to the more than 700 Indiana school counselors who attended our fall regional workshops. If you were not able to attend, copies of the workshop handouts and Powerpoints are available on our website under Hot Topics at [www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling](http://www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling)
- **Elementary School Counselor Updates**
  - We're looking for 5 Indiana elementary schools interested in piloting an evidence-based school counseling program called Student Success Skills. Information will be coming soon about how elementary and middle schools may apply for the program. Read more about SSS at [www.studentsuccessskills.com/](http://www.studentsuccessskills.com/)
- **Middle School Counselor Updates**
  - Yes, there is still a requirement that Indiana middle schools provide Advisor-Advisee programs. You can find two great links to resources – including the Advisor-Advisee rule, videos and loads of classroom lesson plans and activities – at [www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/middleschool/academic\\_guidance.html](http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/middleschool/academic_guidance.html)
  - Check out the new BioWorksU website at [www.bioworksU.com/](http://www.bioworksU.com/) – which provides a fun way for middle and high school students to explore health-related careers and other aspects about preparing for college.
- **High School Counselor Updates**
  - New Indiana course titles and descriptions for next year are available under “Hot Topics” at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling> Note that there are two links. We are working on a summary document of new and current course titles and descriptions for release later this month.
  - Several HS counselors asked us to consider combining next year's fall workshops (i.e. IDOE, College Board, ACT, SSACI, etc) Give us your opinion in our one question survey at <http://www.counselingsurveys.org/do.php?survey=s108014>
  - A list of the state approved certificates allowed for the Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma can be found at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/octe/welcome.html> Click on the first bullet on that page to download the official list which will be updated each year.
  - Download the latest copy of the new graduation requirements for class of 2010 and subsequent classes at [http://www.doe.state.in.us/core40/diploma\\_requirements.html](http://www.doe.state.in.us/core40/diploma_requirements.html)
  - Don't forget the due date for the Learn More 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade “Career and College Surveys” is Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – the day before Thanksgiving.
  - Career Profiles are once again working at Learn More Indiana. Go directly to the Career Profiles page at [www.learnmoreindiana.org/careers/exploring/Pages/CareerProfiles.aspx](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/careers/exploring/Pages/CareerProfiles.aspx)
- **eSSR Advocacy Works** – Because of the advocacy efforts of high school counselors and the Indiana Association of College Admission Counseling (IACAC) – the Director of Admissions at IU Bloomington has announced the institution will shorten its electronic secondary school report (eSSR) immediately. Mary Ellen Anderson said she had received

several e-mails from high school counselors requesting the change and agreed it was important to do. Anderson reminds counselors that the e-Transcript and eSSR are the preferred methods for receiving transcripts and secondary school reports.

An online tutorial to learn how to use the new electronic secondary school reports (eSSRs) is available anytime at [www.docufide.com/essr](http://www.docufide.com/essr)

- **Paper versions of the FAFSA** won't be sent to high schools in large quantities any longer – though some schools have said they have been able to receive quantities of 100 – 150 FAFSAs this fall.

The change is designed to encourage more students to complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). A PDF version of the new FAFSA will be available at [www.fsapubs.org/](http://www.fsapubs.org/) later this month and students may request up to three paper copies of the FAFSA by calling 800-433-3243 (800-4FED-AID).

- **Campus Tours for Counselors Rev Up Again** - Independent Colleges of Indiana (the association that represents all of Indiana's private colleges) is once again scheduling an ICI Campus Tour Program for school counselors. This educational and fun experience is FREE and is designed specifically to meet the needs of counselors.

For a detailed schedule of the 2008 Spring and Summer Tour schedules, as well as online registration, visit [www.indianacollegechoices.org](http://www.indianacollegechoices.org) and click on "Counselors." CRU's are available through the Indiana Department of Education for participation in the tours.

## **Resources**

- Scholarship applications are now available for juniors and seniors interested in a \$2,000 scholarship through the **Hoosier Heroes – 2008 Scholarship Program**. Indiana high school juniors and seniors nominate a living Hoosier (a current or former resident of Indiana) who inspires them. Ten winners will receive a \$2,000 postsecondary scholarship. The deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. For complete instructions, examples of winning nominations, writing resources and rubrics, go to [www.HoosierHeroes.org](http://www.HoosierHeroes.org)
- The third annual **Indiana's Future conference** sponsored by CELL (the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning) will take place on November 12 and 13, 2007, at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Each keynote will make the connection between improved education and economic development while providing practical strategies for ensuring EVERY student succeeds. To register or find out more information about the conference, visit <http://cell.uindy.edu/transformingeducation/2007conference.php>
- Mark your calendars for the **100 Black Men of Indiana/Infinite Scholar Program's Annual College Fair** on February 2, 2008 at the University of Indianapolis from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Shawn S. Odle at 317.788.3352 or [odles@uindy.edu](mailto:odles@uindy.edu)
- **Give Kids a Smile** is a free statewide program for students who either do not have access to dental insurance OR are on Medicaid but currently do not have a dental provider. On Give Kids a Smile day, February 1, 2008, volunteer dental offices donate the following treatments: cleanings, fillings, extractions, sealants and other procedures the student may need. Volunteers are dentists working in the community who are donating their time and supplies to help students in desperate need of dental care.

For more information contact Laura Barnard at [laura@indentat.org](mailto:laura@indentat.org) or Angie Oechsle at [angie@indentat.org](mailto:angie@indentat.org) or at (800) 562-5646. Information is also available online at [www.indentat.org](http://www.indentat.org), visit IDA Programs and click on Give Kids a Smile.

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*Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.state.in.us/mailman/listinfo/intouch>*

*Find archived editions of SS InTouch at [www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling](http://www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling) under "Resources"*

*Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at [asnobarg@doe.state.in.us](mailto:asnobarg@doe.state.in.us) – 317-232-9136 or Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – [mfleck@doe.state.in.us](mailto:mfleck@doe.state.in.us)*